

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 02189 241107Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INR-10 MCT-02 IO-13 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /091 W
-----035918 241720Z /43

R 241050Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8880
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 2189

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, PEPR, AG, CA
SUBJECT: MASCHINO-ZEGHAR KIDNAPPING

REF: A. ALGIERS 2109, B. ALGIERS 2107, C. STATE 179530,
D. ALGIERS 2021, E. STATE 185577

1. PER PARA 6 REF E, CANADIAN CHARGE MISREPRESENTED OR
MISUNDERSTOOD CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR REPORTED REF
D. CANADIANS IN JULY 9 AND OTHER CONVERSATIONS HAVE
INDICATED TO US THEIR BELIEF THAT THERE MAY BE IMPOR-
TANT U.S. INTEREST IN CASE DESPITE ZEGHAR'S EARLIER ROLE IN
U.S. - ALGERIAN RELATIONS AND VISIT OF AMERICAN LAWYER
MCKINZIE.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT ALGERIAN REACTION
TO STIFF CANADIAN POSITION ON ISSUE CANNOT BE CATEGORIC-
ALLY PREDICTED. WHILE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT STRONG
CANADIAN POSITION WOULD RESULT IN RELATIONS BREAK, GOA
IS MOST UNPREDICTABLE. SINCE ZEGHAR IS VIP HERE AND
EXTREMELY CLOSE TO BOUMEDIENE, AND AFFAIR HAS HAD WIDE FRENCH
PRESS COVERAGE, PROBABILITY THAT ANY CANADIAN ACTION
WOULD BECOME PUBLIC IS VERY GREAT. GIVEN CLOSE ZEGHAR-
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PAGE 02 ALGIER 02189 241107Z

BOUMEDIENE RELATIONSHIP, IT IS POSSIBLE IF NOT PROBABLE
EMBARRASSMENT MIGHT PROMPT SEVERE GOA REACTION. EMBASSY
BELIEVES CANADIANS SHOULD BE FULLY AWARE OF POSSIBILITIES
BEFORE DECIDING WHAT COURSE OF ACTION TO TAKE.HAYNES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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